



Justice Department accuses RealPage of a scheme to help landlords hike rents in antitrust lawsuit

By A.D.RICHER and R.J. RICO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department filed an antitrust lawsuit Friday against real estate software company RealPage Inc., accusing it of an illegal scheme that allows landlords to coordinate to hike rental prices. The lawsuit, filed alongside attorneys general in states including North Carolina and California, alleges the company is violating antitrust laws through its algorithm that landlords use to get recommended rental prices for millions of apartments across the country. Rents across the U.S. saw a huge spike in 2021 and 2022, and though their growth has since tapered off, they remain stubbornly high for many tenants, thanks in part to a huge lack of housing supply. Justice Department officials allege that RealPage is another reason for the high rents since the algorithm allows landlords to align their prices and avoid competition that would otherwise keep rents down.

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Attorney General Merrick Garland, center, speaks with reporters about an antitrust lawsuit against real estate software company RealPage during a news conference at the Department of Justice, Friday, Aug. 23, 2024, in Washington. At left is Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco and at right is Acting Associate Attorney General Benjamin Mizer.

Associated Press

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

SUNDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

MONDAY:
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm
MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm
KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm

THURSDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

FRIDAY:
RICKY THOMAS
GUITARIST
7:00 - 9:00pm

SATURDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER
4:00 - 6:00pm
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY



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Justice Department accuses RealPage of a scheme to help landlords hike rents in antitrust lawsuit

Continued from Front

"Americans should not have to pay more in rent simply because a company has found a new way to scheme with landlords to break the law," Attorney General Merrick Garland told reporters.

In a statement, RealPage said the Justice Department's claims were "devoid of merit and will do nothing to make housing more affordable."

"We are disappointed that, after multiple years of education and cooperation on the antitrust matters concerning RealPage, the DOJ has chosen this moment to pursue a lawsuit that seeks to scapegoat pro-competitive technology that has been used responsibly for years," the company said. In an interview with the Associated Press, Dom Beveridge, a longtime expert in the revenue management field who is not connected to the lawsuit, gave a detailed, vociferous defense of revenue management software and said prosecutors have fundamentally misunderstood how such products work.

"If it were true that the software enabled price-fixing, I would 100% be on the side of the lawsuits—but it's simply not what the software does," said Beveridge, who briefly worked for RealPage when his company's soft-



Attorney General Merrick Garland, center, speaks with reporters about an antitrust lawsuit against real estate software company RealPage during a news conference at the Department of Justice, Friday, Aug. 23, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

ware was acquired by the firm in 2017. "These algorithms are only functionally capable of optimizing one property at a time. They can't say, 'I'm going to take property A, B and C and figure out collectively what they should do together,' which is the allegation being made."

He emphasized that property managers are incentivized to maximize revenue, which means keeping occupancy high, rather than constraining supply, as critics have alleged. Rather than being like an Uber "surge price," revenue management tools help apartment managers align their inventory as if it were a game of Tetris, thereby actually increasing the supply available, Beveridge said.

RealPage came under scrutiny after a 2022 ProPublica investigation into the company's practice suggested that it could be to blame for some of the rapid increases in rents. Since then, RealPage has drawn the ire of Democratic lawmakers, including Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, who in February introduced a bill to bar companies from using algorithms to collude and fix prices. White House National Economic Advisor Lael Brainard said the White House had no comment on the lawsuit, but added that President Joe Biden's administration "has made clear that no one should pay higher prices because of corporate lawbreaking and continues to support

fair and vigorous enforcement of the antitrust laws to prevent illegal collusion."

RealPage is not the only company that offers an algorithmic tool to help property managers set prices. But the lawsuit says the company is by far the biggest in the industry, controlling 80% of the market.

The use of data to help property managers set their rents isn't new or, on its face, illegal. But officials argue that RealPage is different.

According to lawsuits filed in the past year by the attorneys general for Arizona and Washington, D.C., RealPage doesn't just use publicly available data—it uses confidential data that RealPage's clients have agreed to privately share to help RealPage's software to determine the highest price.

That amounts to cartel-like illegal price collusion, authorities say. Only this time, instead of cartel members meeting inside a proverbial "smoke-filled room," the price-fixing is done by AI, they say.

The Justice Department points to RealPage executives' own words about how their product maximizes prices for landlords. One executive said, "There is greater good in everybody succeeding versus essentially trying to compete against one another in a

way that actually keeps the entire industry down."

RealPage has noted that landlords are free to reject the price recommendations generated by its software. But the Justice Department alleges that doing so often requires a series of steps, including a conversation with a RealPage pricing adviser who can "stop property managers from acting on emotions."

Beveridge argued that property managers' adherence to the RealPage algorithm is not actually very high—about 40-50% of the rents that ultimately get posted fall within 1% of the algorithm's recommendation, prosecutors said.

"That's essentially a coin flip," he said. "You should want people to be accepting about 90% of your recommendations because most price recommendations are really small."

The case is the latest example of the Biden administration's aggressive antitrust enforcement.

The Justice Department sued Apple in March and in May announced a sweeping lawsuit against Ticketmaster and its owner, Live Nation Entertainment. Antitrust enforcers have also opened investigations into the roles Microsoft, Nvidia and OpenAI have played in the artificial intelligence boom. □



Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump talks with reporters at a campaign event at Il Toro E La Capra, Friday, Aug. 23, 2024, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

By ERIC TUCKER and DAVID KLEPPER
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — The

same Iranian hacking group believed to have targeted both the Democratic and Republican

Iranian hackers targeted WhatsApp accounts of staffers in Biden, Trump administrations, Meta says

presidential campaigns tried to go after the WhatsApp accounts of staffers in the administrations of President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump, Meta Platforms said Friday. Meta said it discovered the network of hackers, who posed as tech support agents for companies including Microsoft and Google, after individuals who received the suspicious WhatsApp messages reported them. Meta's investigators linked the activity to the same network blamed for the hacking in-

cident reported by Trump's campaign.

The FBI this week said a hack by Iran of the Trump campaign and an attempted breach of the Biden-Harris campaign was part of a broader Iranian effort to interfere with the U.S. presidential election.

A statement Friday from Meta, the parent of Facebook and Instagram, said that the hackers had tried to target the WhatsApp account of individuals in the Middle East, the United States and the United Kingdom, as well as political

and diplomatic officials—including unidentified officials associated with the Trump and Biden administrations.

A "small cluster" of accounts was blocked by Meta, the company said.

"We have not seen evidence of the targeted WhatsApp accounts being compromised, but out of an abundance of caution, we're sharing our findings publicly, in addition to sharing information with law enforcement and our industry peers," Meta said in a statement. □

White House insists it is making progress on Gaza cease-fire as talks continue over the weekend

By AAMER MADHANI and JULIA FRANKEL
Associated Press

BUELLTON, Calif. (AP) — The White House said Friday that cease-fire talks in Cairo have been constructive and will continue over the weekend as the U.S. and Mideast allies continue to press Israel and Hamas to forge an agreement.

CIA Director William Burns and Brett McGurk, a senior adviser on the Middle East to President Joe Biden, are leading the U.S. side of negotiations that began on Thursday amid major differences between Israel and Hamas over Israel's insistence that it maintain forces in two strategic corridors in Gaza.

"There has been progress made," White House national security spokesman John Kirby said, "We need now for both sides to come together and work towards implementation."

Kirby did not detail where progress had been made, but he did insist that there's been momentum in the conversations among the mediators from the U.S., Israel and Hamas' interlocutors Egypt and Qatar.

Biden took a break from his family vacation in Santa Ynez Valley, California, on



CIA director William Burns speaks during a hearing, March 11, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

Friday to call Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to discuss the negotiations.

Diplomatic efforts have redoubled as fears grow of a wider regional war after the recent targeted killings of leaders of the militant Hamas and Hezbollah groups, both blamed on Israel, and threats of retaliation.

Israel and Hamas have been at loggerheads over

the Philadelphia corridor alongside Gaza's border with Egypt and the Netzarim east-west corridor across the territory. Hamas is demanding a complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza.

Netanyahu insists on the principle that Israel will control the Philadelphia corridor, with the aim of preventing the rearming of Hamas and a repeat of the atrocities of the Oct. 7 attack on Israel. He also denied reports

that Israel would be willing to accept an international force in the corridor.

Hamas on Friday pushed back that Netanyahu was "blocking any chance to reach a cease-fire deal." Asked whether Netanyahu was negotiating in good faith, Kirby noted that Biden had a "constructive" conversation Wednesday with Netanyahu.

"We're in Cairo. They're in Cairo," Kirby said. "We need Hamas to participate."

We need to get down to the brass tacks of locking in these details. And that's what we're focused on here."

The war began with the Oct. 7 attack as Hamas and other militants stormed Israel, killing around 1,200 people mostly civilians and abducting around 250. The Israeli offensive launched in response has killed more than 40,000 Palestinians in Gaza, according to the local Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between militants and civilians.

Biden last week said he was "optimistic" that an agreement could be reached after he spoke by phone with the Egyptian president and Qatar's emir. That conversation came after a round of negotiations in Doha that White House officials said showed promise that a deal was close.

But by Tuesday, Biden was notably more muted about the prospects of the two sides coming to an agreement soon. He told reporters after delivering an address at the Democratic convention that "Hamas was now backing off," but that the U.S. is "going to keep pushing" to land a cease-fire deal. □

Government announces more COVID-19 tests can be ordered through mail for no cost

AMANDA SEITZ
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — On the heels of a summer wave of COVID-19 cases, Americans will be able to get free virus test kits mailed to their homes, starting in late September.

U.S. households will be able to order up to four COVID-19 nasal swab tests when the federal program reopens, according to the website, COVIDtests.gov. The U.S. Health and Human Services agency that oversees the testing has not announced an exact date for ordering to begin.

The tests will detect current virus strains and can be or-

dered ahead of the holiday season when family and friends gather for celebrations, an HHS spokesperson said in an emailed statement. Over-the-counter COVID-19 at-home tests typically cost around \$11, as of last year.

The announcement also comes as the government is once again urging people to get an updated COVID-19 booster, ahead of the fall and winter respiratory virus season. Earlier this week, U.S. regulators approved an updated COVID-19 vaccine that is designed to combat the recent virus strains and, hopefully, forthcoming

winter ones, too. Vaccine uptake is waning, however. Most Americans have some immunity from prior infections or vaccinations, but data shows under a quarter of U.S. adults took last fall's COVID-19 shot.

The Biden administration has given out 1.8 billion COVID-19 tests, including half distributed to households by mail. It's unclear how many tests the feds have on hand.

Tens of billions of tax-payer dollars have been used to develop COVID-19 tests, vaccines and treatments. Although deaths and serious infections have dropped dramatically

since COVID-19 started its U.S. spread in 2020, hospitalizations have started to slightly creep up in recent

weeks. In total, more than 1 million Americans have died from the virus. □



A woman holds two boxes of at-home Covid-19 test kits in Washington, Dec. 22, 2021.

Associated Press

Former MMA fighter Ronda Rousey apologizes for posting Sandy Hook conspiracy online 11 years ago

By SUSAN HAIGH

Associated Press

Former MMA fighter and professional wrestler Ronda Rousey has issued an online apology, which she admits is "11 years too late," for reposting a conspiracy video about the deadly 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School mass shooting on social media.

Rousey, an Olympic bronze medalist in judo, said reposting the video was "the single most regrettable decision of my life" and that she didn't even believe the video but "was so horrified at the truth that I was grasping for an alternative fiction to cling to instead."

Rousey said she realized her mistake and quickly took down the post, but "the damage was done." She said she was never asked about the post by the media, and she was afraid to draw attention to the video over the years. Rousey said she drafted "a thousandth apology" for her recent memoir, but a publisher urged her to take it out. She then convinced herself that apologizing would reopen an emotional wound



Professional wrestler Ronda Rousey speaks at a press conference in East Rutherford, N.J., Friday, March 16, 2018.

Associated Press

in order to "shake the label of being a 'Sandy Hook truther.'

"But honestly I deserve to be hated, labeled, detested and worse for it. I deserve to lose out on every opportunity, I should have been canceled, I would have deserved it. I still do," Rousey wrote. "I apologize that this came 11 years too

late, but to those affected by the Sandy Hook massacre, from the bottom of my heart and depth of my soul I am so sorry for the hurt I caused."

The issue of Rousey's posting of the video recently came up on the platform Reddit when she invited users to ask her questions about her recently launched fund-

raising campaign for her first graphic novel. Some asked why she didn't issue a strong apology for amplifying the conspiracy theory about the shooting.

After the shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, which left 20 first graders and six educators dead, falsehoods were pushed that the tragedy was a hoax.

Victims' families, who were awarded \$1.5 billion by a jury in 2022 for the role conspiracy theorist Alex Jones played, have said they have been subjected to years of torment, threats and abuse by people who believed such lies.

A spokesperson for the lawyer who represents the families declined to comment on Rousey's apology. In her statement, Rousey said she was "remorseful and ashamed" for the pain she contributed to those affected by the massacre. "I've regretted it every day of my life since and will continue to do so until the day I die," she wrote.

Rousey warned others about falling down the "black hole" of conspiracy theories.

"It doesn't make you edgy or an independent thinker, you're not doing your due diligence entertaining every possibility by digesting these conspiracies. They will only make you feel powerless, afraid, miserable and isolated," she wrote. "You're doing nothing but hurting others and yourself." □

Oklahoma revokes license of teacher who gave class QR code to Brooklyn library in book-ban protest



Former Norman High School English teacher Summer Boismier holds up a T-shirt with a QR code link to the Brooklyn Public Library at the Green Feather Book Company in Norman, Okla., on Oct. 6, 2022.

Associated Press

By NADIA LATHAN
Associated Press/Report for America

Oklahoma's education board has revoked the license of a former teacher

who drew national attention during surging book-ban efforts across the U.S. in 2022 when she covered part of her classroom bookshelf in red tape with the

words "Books the state didn't want you to read."

The decision Thursday went against a judge who had advised the Oklahoma Board of Education not to revoke the license of Summer Boismier, who had also put in her high school classroom a QR code of the Brooklyn Public Library's catalogue of banned books. An attorney for Boismier, who now works at the Brooklyn Public Library in New York City, told reporters after the board meeting that they would seek to overturn the decision.

"I will not apologize for sharing publicly available information about library access with my students," the former teacher posted on X. "My livelihood will never be as important as some-

one's life or right to read what they want."

Brady Henderson, Boismier's attorney, and the office of Oklahoma State Superintendent Ryan Walters did not immediately respond to phone messages seeking comment Friday.

Boismier, a fervent reader with a passion for fantasy novels, had been teaching English for nine years when she was involuntarily thrust into the center of Walters' campaign for statewide office in August 2022. She received threats on social media and was accused of being part of a broader movement led by teachers to influence children's political beliefs. Boismier resigned soon after.

She said at the time that she had hoped to spark a

discussion about Oklahoma legislators' book restrictions and a new law prohibiting lessons on critical race theory and other concepts about race and gender. Instead, she was summoned to a meeting with school administrators after a parent complained.

Walters, who was a candidate for Oklahoma's top education office when Boismier was teaching, had called on the board in 2022 to revoke her teaching license in a letter he shared on social media.

"There is no place for a teacher with a liberal political agenda in the classroom," Walters had wrote. He accused her of providing "banned and pornographic material" to students. □

U.S. expands area in Mexico to apply for border asylum appointments, hoping to slow push north

By EDGAR H. CLEMENTE

and MARÍA VERZA

Associated Press

CIUDAD HIDALGO, Mexico (AP) —

As soon as she stepped onto Mexican soil this week, Venezuelan migrant Yuri Carolina Meléndez downloaded the U.S. government's app to apply for asylum appointments.

The CBP One app has been around, but as of Friday migrants in Mexico's southernmost states bordering Guatemala will be able to apply for appointments. Previously, they had to be in central or northern Mexico.

"I have to wait to see if it really works," the woman said while resting under a tree with her 16- and 18-year-old daughters along a border highway leading to the city of Tapachula this week. Mexico has been asking the U.S. to expand the app's access to the south in an attempt to relieve the pressure migrants feel to continue north to at least Mexico City.

In recent years, the Mexican government has tried to contain migrants in the south farther from the U.S. border, but the lack of work opportunities and housing in southern cities like Tapachula have pushed migrants north.



Migrants walk along the highway through Suchiate, Chiapas state in southern Mexico, July 21, 2024, during their journey north toward the U.S. border.

Associated Press

Mexico hopes that if migrants can wait for their appointments in the south they might not risk getting snagged by authorities without papers or by organized crime groups that prey on migrants travelling north.

With an appointment, they could, in theory, move without interference.

Germin Alemán, a 31-year-old from Honduras travelling with his wife and three children, planned to register as soon as they reached Tapachula. "We're going

to apply here, we're going to wait for the appointment," he said as they walked from the border toward Tapachula.

Others, however, still felt the pressure to get farther north. Many migrants often carry big debts and need to start paying them off as soon as possible. Meléndez, for instance, said she planned to keep moving to improve her chances of finding work.

CBP One has been one of the measures of greatest impact in U.S. efforts to

bring order to the growing demand for U.S. asylum along its southwestern border.

In the 2023 fiscal year, U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported more than 2.4 million encounters with migrants along the U.S. Southwest border.

Since the app was launched in January 2023, more than 765,000 people have scheduled appointments to request asylum. Immigration has become a central issue in the U.S. presidential election.

When the Biden administration temporarily suspended the asylum process for those who crossed illegally in June, the app became one of the only ways to request asylum. The U.S. handles 1,500 appointments daily.

The number of migrants crossing the U.S. border illegally has fallen significantly since peaking in December 2023. Washington attributes much of that decline to Mexico's enforcement efforts, which include nabbing migrants in the north and sending them south again.

Still, Mexico welcomes CBP One's expansion.

"That is going to help us a lot," Foreign Affairs Secretary Alicia Bárcena said earlier this month when she announced the expansion was coming. Immigration is a key issue in the two countries' relationship.

But for dozens of nongovernmental groups that advocate for migrants and human rights, there is little to celebrate.

In an open letter to the Mexican government Thursday, they called CBP One "a violation of international law" because it allows the U.S. to limit access to its territory for people in need of protection. □

New Dutch leader bans phones in Cabinet meetings to dial back espionage threat

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The new Dutch prime minister has banned cell phones and other mobile devices from the weekly meetings of his Cabinet in a move aimed at dialing back the risk of digital eavesdropping by spies.

"The threat of espionage is timeless. Electronic devices, a telephone, iPad, are all little microphones and countries are interested in decision-making also in the Netherlands and you want to prevent that. It's a very simple measure all the phones in a safe," Dick Schoof, a former head of the national intelligence agency, told reporters Friday.

Phones were not banned under Schoof's predecessor, Mark Rutte, who left Dutch politics after a general election in November that was won by the radical right Party for Freedom led by Geert Wilders.

Schoof, whose technocratic government

took office in July, said he was taking a different approach based on his former job in the intelligence community.

"Maybe I have a bit more experience with that sort of thing," he said. "So for me, that was a completely natural measure. And I found that all members of the cabinet actually agreed immediately."

Erik Akerboom, the current chief of the General Intelligence and Security Service that Schoof once led, warned last year of espionage including by China targeting the Netherlands and in particular its high-tech sector.

"We see that every day they try to steal that from the Netherlands," Akerboom told The Associated Press.

Schoof's government is holding a series of meetings to hammer out a detailed policy blueprint that will be unveiled next month. □



Prime Minister of the Netherlands Dick Schoof arrives to attend the European Political Community summit at Blenheim Palace in Woodstock, Oxfordshire, England, Thursday, July 18, 2024.

Associated Press

UN rights chief raises alarm about Myanmar's Rohingya civilians trapped by fighting

By GRANT PECK

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — The U.N.'s human rights chief joined a chorus of concern Friday for members of Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya ethnic minority after many were reportedly killed in recent fighting between the military government and the Arakan Army, an armed ethnic rebel group.

According to a statement from the Geneva office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk, he "expressed grave alarm and raised profound concerns about the sharply deteriorating situation across Myanmar, particularly in Rakhine State where hundreds of civilians have reportedly been killed while trying to flee the fighting."

It said his agency had documented that "both the military and the Arakan Army, which now controls most of the townships in Rakhine, have committed serious human rights violations and abuses against the Rohingya, including extrajudicial killings, some involving beheadings, abductions, forced recruitment, indiscriminate bombardments



Rohingya Muslim children refugees, who crossed over from Myanmar into Bangladesh, wait squashed against each other to receive food handouts distributed to children and women by a Turkish aid agency, Oct. 21, 2017, at Thaingkhali refugee camp, Bangladesh.

Associated Press

of towns and villages using drones and artillery, and arson attacks."

The statement cited an Aug. 5 attack along the Naf River bordering Bangladesh, when "dozens were reportedly killed, including by armed drones," but said it was unclear who was responsible. At the

time, The Associated Press reported that at least 150 Rohingya may have been killed by artillery and drone attacks, and cited survivors as saying they believed the attacks were carried out by the Arakan Army.

The group, which is the military wing of the state's Buddhist Rakhine ethnic group,

denied responsibility for the attack on Rohingya fleeing the fighting in the town of Maungdaw, which the Arakan Army has been trying to seize from the army. However, more accounts have since surfaced placing the blame on the group.

Pro-democracy guerrillas and ethnic minority armed

forces, including the Arakan Army, have been battling to oust the country's military rulers since they seized power in 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

However, the fighting in Rakhine has raised fears of a revival of organized violence against members of the Rohingya minority.

In 2017, a military counter-insurgency campaign drove at least 740,000 members of their community to Bangladesh for safety. Almost all still remain there in overcrowded refugee camps, unable to return home because of the continuing instability. International courts are investigating whether the 2017 action by the army constituted genocide.

Many Rohingya have lived in Myanmar for generations, but face widespread prejudice and are generally denied citizenship and other basic rights in the Buddhist-majority country.

"Despite the world saying 'never again' we are once more witnessing killings, destruction and displacement in Rakhine," said Türk's statement. □

ICC prosecutor insists the court has the power to issue warrants for Israeli leaders linked to Gaza

By MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The International Criminal Court's chief pros-

ecutor on Friday called on judges to "urgently" rule on his request for arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

and others linked to the Israel-Hamas war, saying the court has jurisdiction.

"It is settled law that the Court has jurisdiction in this situation," Prosecutor Karim Khan wrote in a 49-page legal brief.

Khan called on a panel of ICC pretrial judges to "urgently render its decisions" on the requests he filed in May for warrants for Netanyahu, his defense minister, Yoav Gallant and three leaders of Hamas, two of whom have since been killed.

The brief filed by Khan came in response to legal arguments filed by dozens of countries, academics, victims' groups and rights groups either rejecting or supporting the court's pow-

er to issue arrest warrants in its investigation into the war in Gaza and the Oct. 7 attacks by Hamas in Israel.

In his May request for arrest warrants, Khan accused Netanyahu, Gallant and three Hamas leaders Yehya Sinwar, Mohammed Deif and Ismail Haniyeh of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip and Israel.

Haniyeh and Deif have since been killed. Sinwar, Hamas' top official in Gaza who masterminded the Oct. 7 attacks, was subsequently named the group's new leader.

Netanyahu called the prosecutor's accusations against him a "disgrace," and an attack on the Israeli military and all of Israel. He

vowed to press ahead with Israel's war against Hamas. Hamas also denounced Khan's actions, saying the request to arrest its leaders equated "the victim with the executioner."

Israel is not a member of the court, so even if the arrest warrants are issued, Netanyahu and Gallant do not face any immediate risk of prosecution. But the threat of arrest could make it difficult for the Israeli leaders to travel abroad.

The war began on Oct. 7, when Hamas and other militants stormed Israel, killed around 1,200 people mostly civilians and abducted around 250. About 110 hostages are still inside Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead. □



Seats of the judges at the International Court of Justice, or World Court, in The Hague, Netherlands, Thursday, May 23, 2024.

Associated Press

Aruba: the legend behind its name

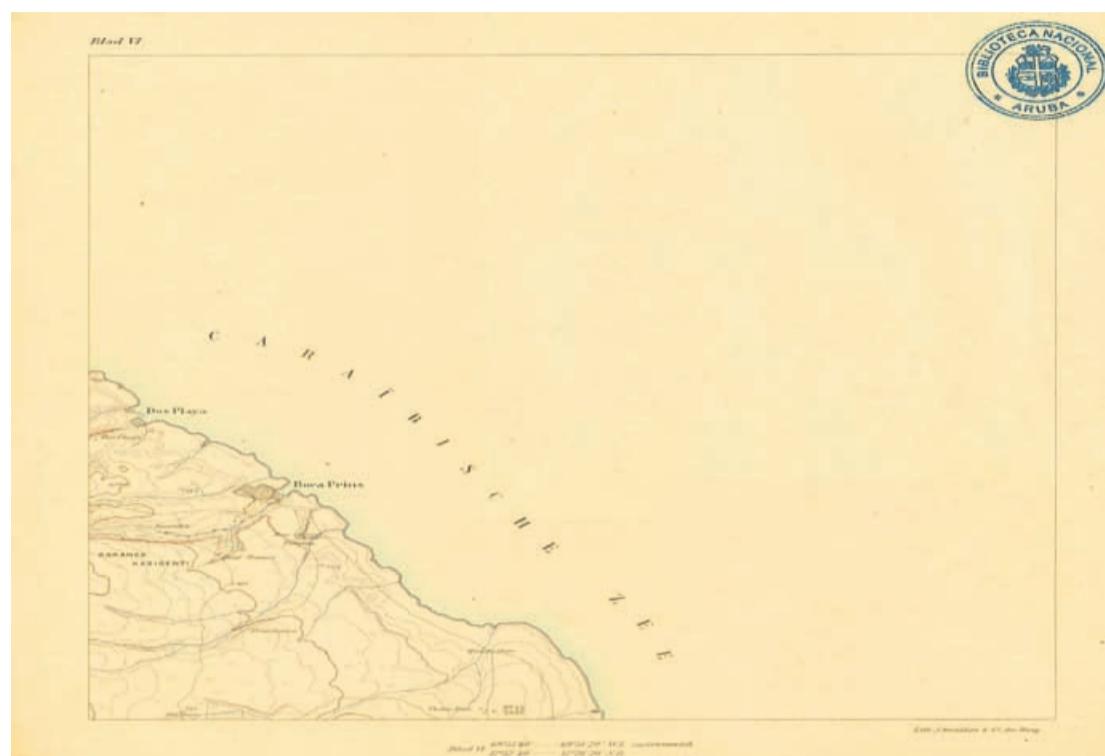
(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curaçao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no



sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curaçao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came

up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple

days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to

rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island.

Source: Un storia di e Indian Arua (A story of the Indian



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The Aruba Monuments Fund Foundation will be hosting an Open Monuments Day on September 15th



The Aruba Monuments Fund Foundation aims to bring the entire community together to explore the rich history and beautiful architecture of the island. On September 15th, the people of Aruba will have the opportunity to visit and enter 13 monuments and his-

toric buildings in the Oranjestad area.

This special day will offer an opportunity to visit and learn about some of Aruba's most valuable monuments and historic sites, all of which will be open to the public for

free.

For the first time, the Aruba Monuments Fund Foundation is organizing Open Monuments Day in collaboration with the Netherlands Monuments Foundation, which is responsible for Open

Monuments Day in the Netherlands. In the Netherlands, this event is celebrated over three days, but in Aruba, it will take place on Sunday, September 15th.

The public can register at the Casita Geel monument, where they will begin their tour of Oranjestad, visiting different monuments, participating in activities for both adults and children, and having the chance to win various prizes such as weekend stays, travel vouchers, sunset sails, dinners, and much more.

From 10 AM to 3 PM, the monuments will be open to the public, and from 3 PM to 5 PM, there will be a closing event with prize presentations for those who participated in the different activi-

ties, accompanied by music from the Tsunami band.

All information will be available online via the website and app of Open Monuments Day, and there will also be information available at the different buildings.

You can enjoy dance and music, workshops and activities for children, crafts and typical Aruban products for sale, Instameets, photography competitions for the "Lang Leven het Erfgoed" project, exclusive tours, and much more.

For these reasons, the Aruba Monuments Fund Foundation invites the community of Aruba to bring friends and family, to discover history, or simply enjoy a different kind of day. □

Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass

(Oranjestad)—If you ever plan on taking a group tour of the island, you may pass through the Frenchman's Pass in Balashi. The Frenchman's pass (known to locals as "Franse Pas") remains a mysterious—and spooky—road of which its legend is told from generation to generation.

The history of the Frenchman's pass—and how it got its name—dates back to the colonization era, when the French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their land. How-

ever, as the French were heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves. The French colonizers tried to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous settlers ended up inhaling too much smoke and most died in those caves. From then on, this passage was known as Frenchman's Pass, and there have been many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish Lagoon.

There are many ghost stories surrounding this area, but one of the most famous

one involves a lonely hitchhiker, trying to find a ride back home in the dark rainy night.

Sometime after trying to hitchhike, the man saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-like in the rain. However, since he needed a ride real bad, he didn't think twice and jumped in. But to his horror, he noticed that the there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he didn't dare to get out, and the car started to move.

When approaching a sharp turn, the hitch hiker

braced for impact, but just when he though the car might drive straight off the road and crash, he saw a hand appear out the window and turn the wheel. For the next few turns, the hand appeared again. After having had enough, the man decided to jump out and he ran to Santa Cruz.

Arriving at a nearby bar, he ordered a drink and began to tell everyone about his experience. Everyone grew quiet, because they realized he wasn't some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

Sometime later, two men walked into the bar and one of them noticed the hitchhiker. He called out to his buddy and said: "Look, there's the idiot who sat in our car when we were pushing it!"

French man's pass is one of the few sites on the island that keeps the locals on their toes. While most ghost stories may not have real grounds—or some may even be a set up story for a joke, this pass contributes a lot to our culture of folkloric story-telling.

Source: visitaruba.com

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Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use (part 2)



(Oranjestad)—In last week's edition, we shared with our readers some medicinal use for plants and fruits, passed down from our elders through generations. This week, we present two more uses of fruits and plants for medicinal use.

Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low

blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea. Many of our elders opted to

plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for



which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree. In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits

for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes. □

Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris

Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals

(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that they have to pay be-

fore leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light.

Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours! □

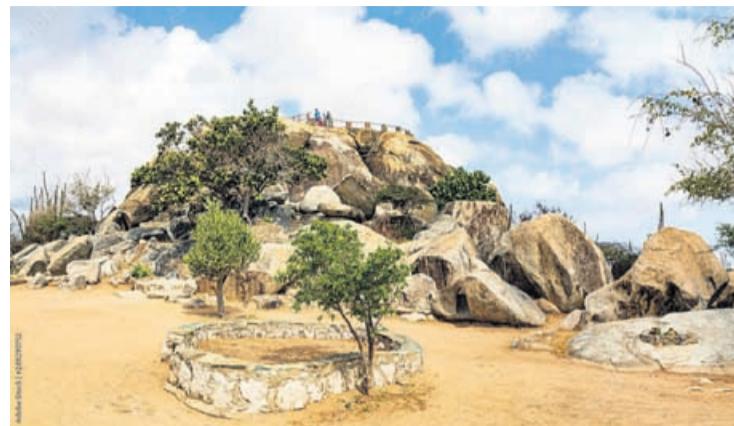


Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your “off-road” trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations are just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding “mondi”*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the

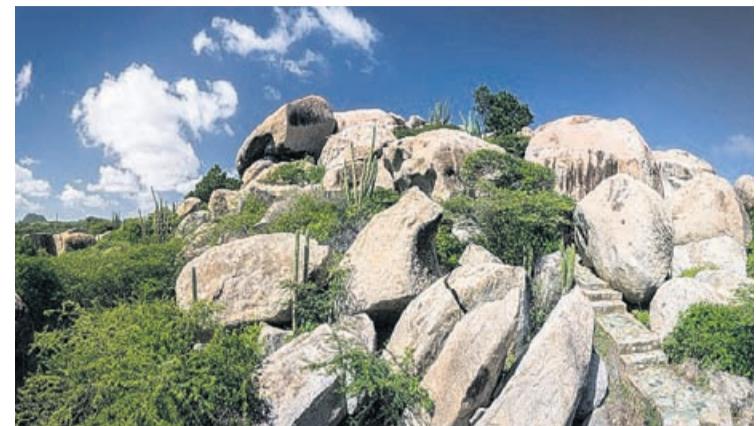


Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refresh-

ing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the



center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat boulder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south. Right in front of the entrance, there is the Casibari Café and Grill, a great place to get refreshments and snack before continuing your off-road adven-

ture!

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way!

*Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi! □



Meet Aruba's biggest hero

Boy Ecury

(Oranjestad)—This past May 4th, Aruba as well as The Netherlands commemorated those who sadly perished during the Second World War. As is known around the globe, this chapter in world history is one of the most tragic yet, and many soldiers and rebels have died on the front-line during this time.

One of those rebels who have fought against the Nazi regime, was an Aruban named Segundo Jorge Adelberto “Boy” Ecury.



Born in Aruba on April 23rd, 1922, Boy spent his childhood on the island, before being sent to The Netherlands by his father when he was 15 years old to continue his studies abroad. This was in 1937, three years before WWII broke out.

During the war, he actively participated in the rebellion in The Netherlands against the Nazi regime, but his rebellious streak and constant drive to fight for justice began even before the war broke out. Being a

person of color with a Haitian heritage living in The Netherlands made him vulnerable to discrimination, and this inspired him to be an activist, to stand up and fight against discrimination and oppression.

After seeing the horrific



bombings of Rotterdam first-hand, he decided to join the resistance. At the same time, he was still studying and living with family in Tilburg. It was there where he met people who printed and distributed the rebellion newspaper. This would be the first of three rebellion group that he would join throughout his 4-year service to the resistance.

Boy's primary task as member of the group was to distract the German soldiers while others ran into hiding into alleyways. This he was able to do because of his skin color and confronting demeanor. Boy also participated in the multiple sabo-

taging operations against the German military occupying The Netherlands. These included bombings on German military trucks and trains. The group also helped people go into hiding, as well as opened fire against allies of the Nazi regime. In these operations, Boy really stood out for his cold bloodedness.

In 1943, he received a notice to be placed for work in Germany. This he refused, of course, and went into hiding using multiple addresses in multiple cities. Because he was a wanted man, he of course could not continue to be active as a rebel. □

Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names

Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

Anabui/Tierra Del Sol

This neighborhood can be seen on Van Raders map and Werbata as Anna Boei. Anna Boei is a name of which there isn't much information about its origin.

The best historians were able to deduce is that this name came to be because of a miscommunication between Van Spengler and the natives who were living on the island. In the Arawak/Taino language one can find the word Anaiboa, which consists of Ana meaning flower or the best and Iboa; the juice of a cassava, which together would mean "the best juice of a cassava".



If one assumes that the actual word heard was Anaiboi instead, consisting of Ana meaning the best and Boio (bohio); house, the iteration of Anabui would mean "the best house." This is the origin that has been more or less speculated and assumed for the word Anabui and its meaning.

During the second world war and later, this area was used as a terrain for training of shooting by militia and later on Korps Mariniers (the marines of Aruba). By the end of the previous century a large part of Anabui was developed to have luxurious villas and a golf course, which lead to it getting the name Tierra Del Sol, Spanish for Land of the Sun. The name is not an official name, but the name of the devel-

opment project that took place. It is hoped that the original and 'old' name of Anabui is never lost and now it will be remembered by both locals and tourists.

Angochi

This name can be seen on the Werbata map with little and cursive letters. It is the unofficial name for the area given by a tenant to the land that was rented to him.

The biggest probability that historians believe is that it comes from native descent, during the time in the 19th century where Mestizos still lived on Aruba. The name can't really be explained and according to books on its history seems to be more of a sign of corruption. However, it seems to come from combining A(n), which is a generalizing prefix and



Angochi
Santa Cruz, Aruba

Goeiza, which means 'the spirit of a living man'. Angochi remains more of a guess. This neighborhood's abbreviation is; An. □

How Aruban beaches came to be!

(Oranjestad)—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches.

How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches? Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coastline (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals also contribute to this, one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands

of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.

The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much

stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

Why north deep, but south shallow?

Ah! Good question...and interesting phrasing.

Aruba is a continental island. The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom. □

Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA).



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 39 Follow

1 Petty argument

5 Deal maker

10 Tiny arachnids

12 Egyptian city

13 Make amends

14 Hard-hearted

15 Moral no-no

16 Brouhaha

18 Scot's cap

19 Jeer from the stands

21 Frost

22 Probe's destination

24 White-horse setting

25 Doesn't fall behind

29 Feral

30 Matador's foe

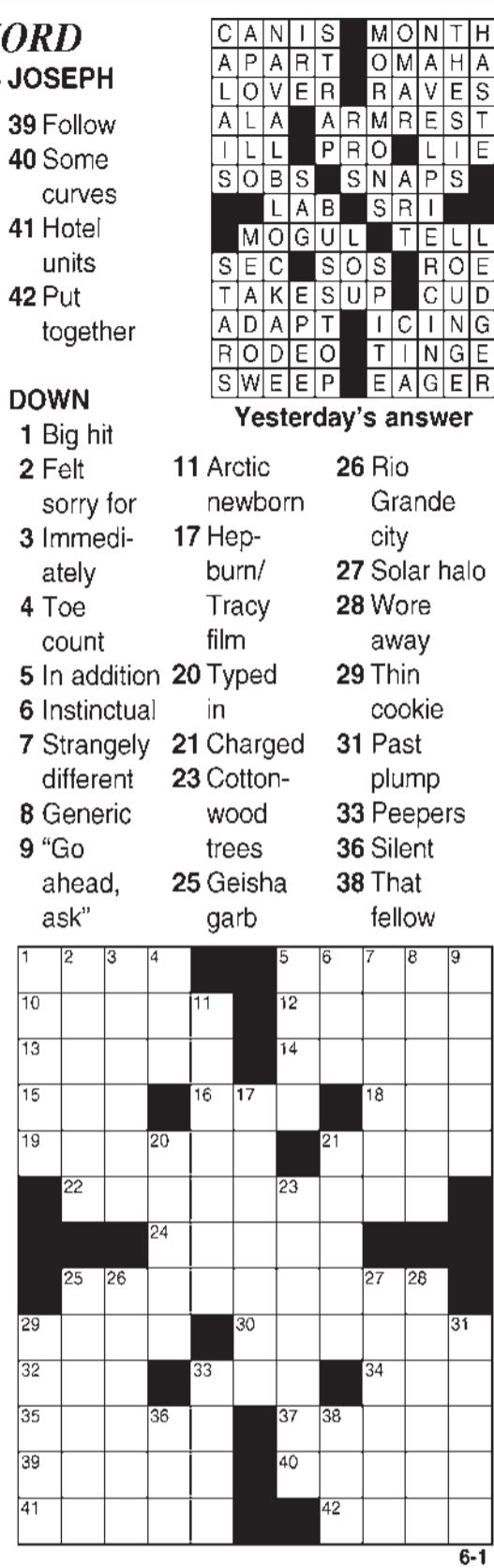
32 Band blaster

33 Pilot's guess: Abbr.

34 Hold up

35 Like hair mousse

37 — Island


 A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-1
CRYPTOQUOTE

 S G N M E A J U C N K A A F H M V U X
E A J C W A X G N C , E A J U C N
K A A F H M V U X X G N T J C N D X
K A L N E A J S H K K N L N C F M A S .

— B G U C K N E O N M N X X A
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WITH EVERY DROP OF WATER YOU DRINK, EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE, YOU'RE CONNECTED TO THE SEA. — SYLVIA EARLE

Cruise ship Schedule: August 27 2024

WED	27	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
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Cruise ship Schedule: September 03 - 24 2024

TUE	03	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00 09.00	20.00 22.00	B C	1 1
WED	04	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	10	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL CELEBRATION CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00 08.00 13.00	21.00 22.00 23.00	B C I	1 1 1
TUE	17	CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	24	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL MAGIC	08.00 09.00	21.00 22.00	B C	1 1

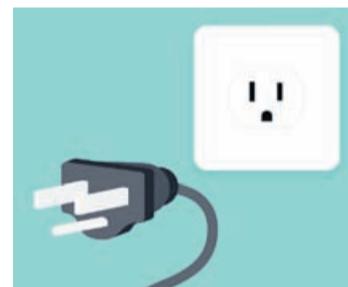
Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours


Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power

Drinking water


The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety


Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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How to avoid the worst of jet lag and maximize your travel time



A holiday traveler looks out at an airplane at Salt Lake City International Airport, in Salt Lake City, July 3, 2024.

By MARIA CHENG
AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — It's the bane of many travelers: jet lag. Nobody wants to lose out because they're too tired to enjoy the delights of their vacation spot. Here are some tips on how to handle jet lag, wherever you might end up.

What is jet lag?

Scientists define jet lag as the effect on the human body of traveling across different time zones. Our bodies have biological clocks programmed into almost every cell in the body, according to Sofia Axelrod, who studies circadian rhythms at Rockefeller University in New York.

"The clock is set by the 24-hour light and dark pattern," Axelrod said. "Every morning when we wake up, specialized (light) receptor cells in our retina receive a daylight signal, which is transmitted to the brain and from there, the whole body."

When we travel to another time zone, our eyes receive the daylight signal at a different time than usual, causing our internal clocks to reset. But that process can take awhile — and it's during that adjustment period that we feel the effects of jet lag.

Is jet lag preventable?

Yes, but that can come at a cost. Malcolm von Schantz,

a professor who specializes in circadian rhythms at Northumbria University in Newcastle, said that flying in premium cabins where travelers can stretch out and properly rest, can ward off sleep deprivation, but he acknowledges that isn't an option for most people.

Still, he said that timing your flights can help. For example, he suggests flying from Europe to North America during the day, so that it's evening when passengers land and they can get a proper night's sleep. "If you take the evening flight instead, you'll be wo-

Associated Press

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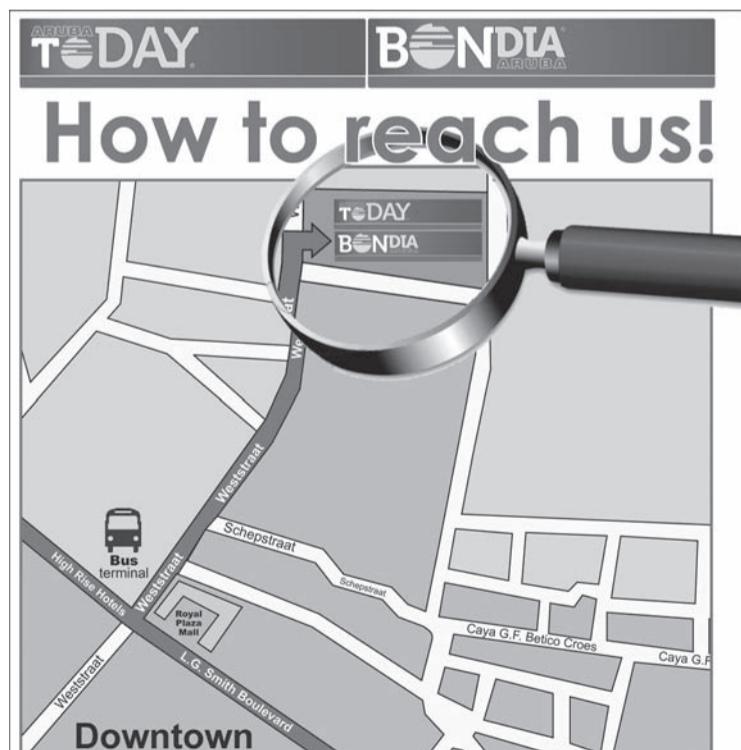
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ken up at midnight to be served breakfast and land an hour or two later, when both jet lag and sleep deprivation will hit you hard and simultaneously," he said. Von Schantz also said flying in newer models with a lighter frame, like the Airbus A350 or Boeing 787 Dreamliner, would help. That's because those planes can maintain a more comfortable cabin atmosphere, which should help travelers feel less worn out by the end of their flights.

What should you do when you arrive?

Experts say getting exposure to sunlight is critical to resetting your internal body clock. That can mean either avoiding morning sun or deliberately seeking it out, depending on where you've travelled from. Getting light in the morning will advance your body clock, while light exposure in the early evening will delay it. Naps are OK, but scientists warn against taking long siestas later in the day, as that might compromise your ability to sleep through the night.□



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Movie Review: 'The Crow' reimagined is stylish and operatic, but cannot outfly 1994 original

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

One of the first things you see in the reimagined "The Crow" is the sight of a fallen white horse in a muddy field, bleeding badly after becoming entangled in barbed wire. It's a metaphor, of course, and a clunky one at that a powerful image that doesn't really fit well and is never explained.

That's a hint that director Rupert Sanders will have a tendency to consistently pick the stylish option over the honest one in this film. In his attempt to give new life to the cult hero of comics and film, he's given us plenty of beauty at the expense of depth or coherence.

The filmmakers have set their tale in a modern, generic Europe and made it very clear that this movie is based on the graphic novel by James O'Barr, but the 1994 film adaptation starring Brandon Lee hovers over it like, well, a stubborn crow.

Brandon, son of legendary actor and martial artist Bruce Lee, was just 28 when he died after being shot while filming a scene for "The Crow." History seems always to repeat: The new adaptation lands as another on-set death remains in the headlines.

Lee's "The Crow" was fin-



This image released by Lionsgate shows Bill Skarsgård in "The Crow".

Associated Press

ished without him and he never got to see it enter Gen X memory in all its rain-drenched, gothic glory, influencing everything from alternative fashion to "Blade" to Christopher Nolan's "Dark Knight" trilogy. Bill Skarsgård seizes Lee's role of Eric Draven, a man so in love that he returns from the dead to revenge his and his sweetheart's slayings in what can be best called a sort of supernatural, romantic murderfest. (The tagline, "True love never dies," clumsily rips off Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera.")

William Schneider, who co-wrote the screenplay with Zach Baylin, has given the story a near-operatic face-lift, by introducing a devil, a Faustian bargain, blood-on-blood oaths and a god-like guide who monitors the limbo between heaven and hell, which looks like a disused, weed-covered railway station. "Kill the ones who killed you and you'll get her back," our hero is told.

The first half drags at it sets the table for the steady beat of limbs and necks being detached at the end. Eric and his love, Shelly (played by an uneven FKA

Twigs), meet in a rehab prison for wayward youth that is so well lit and appointed that it looks more like an airport lounge where the cappuccinos are \$19 but the Wi-Fi is complimentary. Eric is a gentle loner tortured by a past the writers don't bother filling in, who likes to sketch in a book (universal cinema code signaling a sensitive soul) and is heavily tattooed (he's often shirtless). His apartment has rows of mannequins with their heads covered in plastic and his new love calls him "brilliantly broken." He's like a Blink-182 lyric come to life.

Shelly is more complex, but that's because the writers maybe gave up on giving her a real backstory. She has a tattoo that says "Laugh now, cry later," reads serious literature and loves dancing in her underwear. She clearly comes from wealth and has had a falling out with her mom, but has also done an unimaginably horrible thing, which viewers will learn about at the end.

Part of the trouble is that the lead couple cast off very little electricity, offering a love affair that's more teen-like than all-consuming. And this is a story that needs a love capable of transcending death.

There are lots of cool-looking moments mostly Skarsgård in a trench coat, stomping around the desolate concrete jungle in the rain at night until "The Crow" builds to one of the better action sequences this year, albeit another one of those heightened showdowns at the opera. By this time, Eric has donned the Crow's heavy eye and cheek makeup. He adds to this ensemble a katana and an inability to die. As he closes in on his target, mowing down tuxedoed bad guys as arias soar, the group movements on stage are echoed by the furious fighting backstage. □

Music Review: Sabrina Carpenter's 'Short n' Sweet' is flirty, fun and wholly unserious



This album cover image released by Island Records shows "Short n' Sweet" by Sabrina Carpenter.

Associated Press

By **KIANA DOYLE**
Associated Press

Say you can't sleep? Sabrina Carpenter knows.

That's that her espresso.

The 25-year-old pop sensation's smash hit of the summer, "Espresso" with its grammatical mystery of an earworm line, "That's that me espresso" gave listeners a taste of her newest album, "Short n' Sweet." The former Disney Channel actor's sixth studio album follows an explosive year marked with successes, from opening for Taylor Swift on her Eras Tour to performing at Coachella.

She's confident, she's radiant, and she'll air out all your dirty laundry in a breakup song if you wrong her.

In the flirty, fun and wholly unserious "Short n' Sweet," Carpenter's soprano vocals take humorous jabs at exes and drop innuendos with an air of cheeky innocence. Sugary songs like "Taste" and "Juno" incorporate enough NSFW references to have listeners blushing almost as much as the rosy-cheeked singer.

There's a country twang to some tracks, like "Slim Pickins," an acoustic number bemoaning the difficulties of finding a good man and having to settle for a guy who "doesn't even know the difference between 'there,' 'their' and 'they are.'"

Carpenter shows a more vulnerable side with ballads like "Dumb & Poetic" and "Lie to Girls," in which she

drops her carefree front to sing unguarded lyrics airing out grievances against an ex.

"Don't think you understand," she sings in "Dumb & Poetic." "Just 'cause you act like one doesn't make you a man."

But it's when pop tracks blend into R&B that Carpenter really shines. Her breathy vocals work so well on such tracks as "Good Graces" and "Don't Smile," reminiscent of Ariana Grande or Mariah Carey.

Which direction will she take next? Only Carpenter knows.

Isn't that sweet? Carpenter guesses so.

That is, after all, that her espresso. □

Nelly Korda regains dominant form to lead Women's British Open by 3 shots at the home of golf

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland (AP)

— Nelly Korda looks to be back to her dominant best at the home of golf.

The top-ranked American mastered more blustery conditions at St. Andrews by shooting a bogey-free, 4-under 68 in the second round on Friday to take a three-stroke lead at the Women's British Open.

Korda won the first women's major of 2024 the Chevron Championship in April and is on track to capture the last one, too.

There have also been five more titles in a year when she has consolidated her status as the best player in the women's game, even if her top form has deserted her in the last couple of months.

Worse for Korda's rivals is that she is warming to links golf, too.

"This year in general, I've won on just so many different types of grasses, in different types of conditions, that you just kind of always have to adapt," said Korda, who was 8-under par for the tournament. "That's the same thing in tennis, same thing in life."

"You're always adapting



American Nelly Korda in action on day two of the 2024 Women's British Open golf championship, at St Andrews, Scotland, Friday Aug. 23, 2024.

Associated Press

to your situations at hand, and I think that's what's so fun about links golf you're literally starting it 30 yards left of your target, and I'm not a fade player but I'm hitting massive fades. I think it's fun hitting these little low drivers, too. I'm having fun, and I enjoy links golf a lot." Korda has played her first two rounds with defending champion Lilia Vu and

England's Charley Hull, a crowd favorite playing in her home major, and the marquee group has lived up to its billing.

Hull, the overnight leader by one stroke after a first-round 67, shot even par and was tied for second place on 5 under with Vu, who shot 70. They were outplayed by Korda on a day when the wind wasn't quite as brutal

as Day 1, but Hull was bullish heading into the weekend. "Only three shots behind that's nothing going into the weekend, especially on this golf course," said the No. 10-ranked Hull, who is seeking her first major title. "I left a lot of putts out there. I think Nelly had 30 putts and I had 36 putts. So that's six putts that I've lost to her on the greens."

Ruoning Yin, last year's Women's PGA Championship winner from China, shot 72 and was alone in the fourth place on 4 under. Olympic champion Lydia Ko shot a 70 and was one of six players on 3 under five strokes off the lead at the halfway point. In that group was Swedish amateur Louise Rydqvist, who shot 67.

Among the players to miss the cut were No. 3-ranked Jin Young Ko (10 over), No. 5-ranked Hannah Green (7 over), two-time major winner and No. 13-ranked Minjee Lee (9 over) and No. 14-ranked Lauren Coughlin (6 over), who won two of her previous three starts including at the Scottish Open last week.

Only 20 players were under par after 36 holes following two windy days at the Old Course. The forecast is for calmer weather over the weekend.

Korda started out a stroke behind Hull, who bogeyed two of her first five holes after the group began at No. 10 and fell further behind when the American rolled in long putts to birdie both Nos. 17 and 18 for the second straight day. □

Jannik Sinner says the outcome of his steroids case was a relief but he fired two team members

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Jannik Sinner fired his fitness trainer and physiotherapist because of his two positive steroid tests in March and said Friday at his pre-U.S. Open news conference that he knew he was innocent but still worried about what the case's outcome would be until finding out he wouldn't be suspended. "It has been a very tough moment for me and my team," Sinner said at the site of the year's last Grand Slam tournament, where he is the No. 1-seeded man. "It still is."

Play begins Monday at Flushing Meadows. Sinner is scheduled to meet first-round opponent Mackie

McDonald, an American ranked 140th, on Tuesday. McDonald got into the U.S. Open field when Rafael Nadal withdrew earlier this month.

"It's not ideal," Sinner said with a bit of a chuckle when he was asked about the timing of this week's news of his doping case. He also called the outcome "a relief."

Sinner is a 23-year-old Italian who moved up to No. 1 in the ATP rankings for the first time in June and is considered one of the leaders of the next group of male tennis stars who will succeed the Big Three of Roger Federer, Nadal and Novak Djokovic. Sinner's first Grand Slam trophy came in January at the Australian

Open. He is 48-5 with a tour-leading five titles in 2024 and tuned up for the U.S. Open by winning the hard-court Cincinnati Open on Monday.

The next day, the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) announced that Sinner failed two drug tests in March one during a tournament in Indian Wells, California, and one eight days later but that it was determined the banned anabolic steroid Clostebol entered his system unintentionally through a massage from his physiotherapist, Giacomo Naldi.

Sinner's defense was that his fitness trainer, Umberto Ferrara, purchased an over-the-counter spray

that contained Clostebol in Italy, then gave it to Naldi, who used it on a cut finger.

Sinner said Naldi then gave him a massage. □



Italy's Jannik Sinner salutes the crowd after defeating Chile's Alejandro Tablilo during their match at the men's National Bank Open, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024, in Montreal.

Associated Press

The NFL season is approaching. Here's a look at some of the big games and rules changes

By DAVID BRANDT

AP Sports Writer

The NFL season begins in less than two weeks when the two-time defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs host the Baltimore Ravens on Sept. 5. Here's a couple of big storylines as the games that count in the standings rapidly approach:

When does the NFL season start?

The Chiefs-Ravens game kicks the season off on a Thursday night and then the Philadelphia Eagles and Green Bay Packers meet in São Paulo on Friday night, Sept. 6, for the first regular season game played in Brazil. It's the first time since 1970 that the NFL has had a Friday night game as part of its opening week schedule.

Most of the Week 1 games will be on Sunday, Sept. 8, followed by the season's first Monday night matchup between the New York Jets and San Francisco 49ers. Important early games on the schedule

Sept. 8, Rams at Lions: The game features the quarterback matchup of Jared Goff vs. Matthew Stafford. Stafford was the longtime QB for the Lions before get-



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) rolls out to pass against the Detroit Lions during the first half of an NFL preseason football game Saturday, Aug. 17, 2024, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

ting traded to the Rams for Goff and then leading L.A. to a Super Bowl title in 2022. Goff led the Lions past the Rams in the playoffs last season. Both QBs performed well in last year's playoff matchup and more fireworks are expected in Week 1.

Sept. 9, Jets at 49ers: This should mark the return of New York quarterback Aaron Rodgers, who lasted just three official snaps last year before an Achilles

injury cut his 2023 season short. The four-time MVP will face a tough test against a 49ers defense that's been among the league's best for the past few seasons.

Sept. 15, Bears at Texans: If all goes well, this should be the second NFL game for rookie quarterback Caleb Williams, who was taken by the Bears with the No. 1-overall pick out of USC. Williams gets a Week 2 matchup against Texans QB C.J. Stroud, who was

the AP's Offensive Rookie of the Year in 2023.

Nov. 25, Ravens at Chargers: This one is later in the schedule, but features a coaching matchup between brothers John and Jim Harbaugh. Jim was hired by the Chargers in the offseason after leading Michigan to a national championship. The action on the field should be good as well — Baltimore's Lamar Jackson and L.A.'s Justin Herbert are two of the

league's top quarterbacks.

New kickoff rules

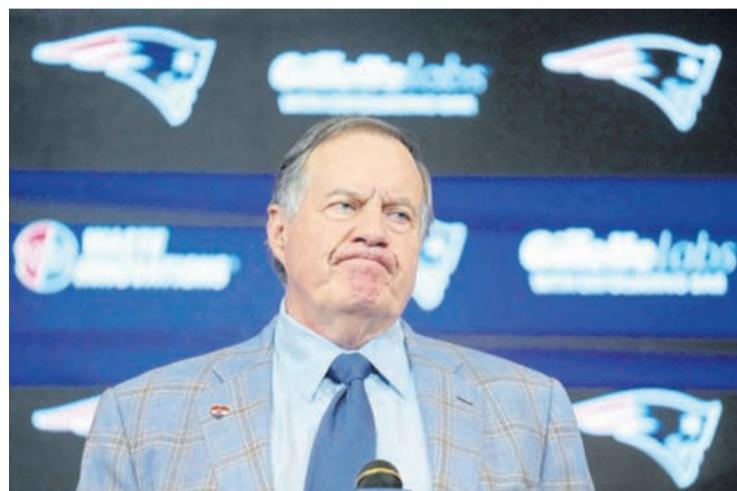
The NFL has overhauled its kickoffs, with the new format using elements of rules from the XFL and tweaking them for use in the NFL beginning this fall. The rules will be in play for one season on a trial basis and then be subject to renewal in 2025. The first week of exhibition games featured a few long returns, a significant drop in touchbacks and confusion on an odd play that ended up as a rare safety.

It's fair to wonder how much strategy teams are withholding for the regular season. There could be some fireworks in Week 1.

The rookie quarterbacks

Williams is commanding a big chunk of the attention since he was the No. 1-overall pick, but multiple teams could be going with a rookie quarterback this season.

The Washington Commanders have already named No. 2 pick Jayden Daniels the starter following his Heisman-winning season at LSU. There's also the chance that No. 3 pick Drake Maye will start for the New England Patriots this fall, though a decision hasn't been made. □



Former New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick faces reporters during an NFL football news conference, Jan. 11, 2024, in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Pro Football Writer

Bill Belichick could be eligible to be selected for the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2026 instead of 2029 following significant changes made to the selection process.

The Hall of Fame announced

the new rules that were approved by the Board of Directors on Friday. They go into effect immediately, including reducing the waiting period for coaches to be considered from five years out of the game to one year. That would make six-time

New Hall of Fame rules could speed up Bill Belichick's possible induction

Super Bowl-winning head coach Belichick eligible to be selected for the 2026 class after he parted ways with the New England Patriots after last season.

The new rules also could speed up the process for another Super Bowl-winning coach, Seattle's Pete Carroll, who also was replaced after the 2023 season. Belichick and Carroll would have to wait again if they get hired by another team in the offseason.

The Hall of Fame also made several other changes, including splitting the coach and contributor categories, adding new screening committees to review the full list of nominees for players from the modern era and seniors

category and requiring between one and three people picked each year out of the five nominees for seniors, coaches and contributors.

The process for picking the class of 2025 will begin soon when new 11-person screening committees made up of Hall of Famers, former front office executives, football historians and media members will reduce the list of nominees to 50 candidates for the modern era and seniors category. None of the 22 people on those committees will be on the selection committee that votes in early 2025 on who gets into the Hall.

The full selection committee will reduce the list of modern era candidates to 25 semifinalists in November and 15 finalists in December before the final vote.

Among the top first-time candidates eligible this year are Eli Manning, Luke Kuechly, Marshall Yanda, Marshawn Lynch and Terrell Suggs. A seniors blue-ribbon committee consisting of seven people who are on the full selection committee and two others who could be Hall of Famers, historians or anyone with expansive football knowledge will reduce that list and ultimately pick three finalists.

There will be similar blue-ribbon committees that will select one coach and one contributor to be considered by the full selection committee. □